

***Captain John W. Rolph
Judge Advocate General's Corps
United States Navy
Circuit Military Judge
Tidewater Judicial Circuit
Norfolk, Virginia***



Captain John W. Rolph is a native of El Paso, Texas. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree (cum laude) in History from the University of Texas at El Paso in 1978; his Juris Doctor degree from Baylor University in 1981, and his Master of Laws degree in Criminal Law from the Army Judge Advocate General's School in Charlottesville, Virginia in 1991. Captain Rolph first entered the Navy in 1973 as an enlisted man. From 1973 until 1975, he served onboard USS EXCEL (MSO 439), where he advanced to the rank of Radioman Second Class. He thereafter served in the Naval Reserve from 1975 until he was commissioned an Ensign in the JAG Corps student program in 1980. He attended Officer Indoctrination School and Naval Justice School in Newport, Rhode Island in early 1982.

Captain Rolph is currently assigned as the Circuit Military Judge of the Tidewater Judicial Circuit in Norfolk, Virginia. Prior to this assignment he served as an Appellate Judge on the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals in Washington, D.C. [1998 to 2000], and both as Commanding Officer and Executive Officer of Naval Legal Service Office, Mid-Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia [1996-1998]. From 1993 to 1996, Captain Rolph served as a Military Judge presiding over general and special courts-martial in the TRANSATLANTIC Judicial Circuit based out of Rota, Spain. Prior to reporting to the trial bench, Captain Rolph served as a Professor of Law (and the first Navy Representative) in the International and Operational Law Division of the Army Judge Advocate General's School, Charlottesville, Virginia [1990-1993]; as the Command Judge Advocate onboard USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) [1988-1990]; as the Assistant Force Judge Advocate on the staff of Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet [1987-1988]; as the Base Judge Advocate for the Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado [1985-1987]; as the Senior Trial Counsel, Naval Legal Service Office, Yokosuka, Japan [1983-1985]; and as both Defense and Trial Counsel at the Naval Legal Service Office, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines [1982-1983].

He is a member of the bar of the State of Texas, and is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Supreme Court of Texas, the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, the Army Court of Criminal Appeals, and the Navy and Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals. He is a member of the American Judges Association, and the American Judges Federation. In 1997, Captain Rolph received "The Outstanding Career Armed Services Attorney Award" from the Judge Advocates Association.

Captain Rolph's personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (Fifth Award), the Navy Commendation Medal (Third Award), the Navy Achievement Medal (Second Award), and the Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal. He is married to the former Joan M. duPont of Middleburg, Virginia. The Rolphs have two sons: Galen (11) and Mason (9).